

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Congressman John Hall (D-NY) today announced that they have secured approval from a key House panel for \$400,000 for laboratory equipment and furnishings for the Science, Engineering & Technology Center at the Middletown campus of Orange County Community College (SUNY Orange). Earlier this week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor Health and Human Services Education and Related Agencies approved the funds as part of its fiscal year 2011 budget. SUNY Orange will use the funds to further its mission of providing state of the art education for careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

"In a global economy, having a talented and skilled local workforce is essential to creating and attracting new high-paying jobs," said Hinchey. "I requested these funds in order to help Orange County Community College develop and improve its Science, Engineering & Technology Center so that more students in Hudson Valley can get the preparation they need to succeed in emerging high-tech fields."

"Cultivating the next generation of American scientists and engineers is vital to our nation's continued success," said Hall. "Investing in science and technology provides Hudson Valley students with the tools and resources they need to remain competitive with their counterparts around the globe."

SUNY Orange has outlined four areas where the funding could be allocated:

- Biology Lab Equipment, including laboratory equipment such as microscopes and models for coursework associated with cell biology, structure and function of vertebrate body, biochemical pathways, cellular division, diversity and biological systems.
- Anatomy and Physiology Equipment, including anatomical models of various body groups and systems, such as muscles, circulation, bones, as well as laboratory equipment such as microscopes.
- General Chemistry Equipment, including balances, flasks, beakers, hydrometers, geiger counters, solvents and chemical storage units and other equipment associated with general chemistry offerings.
- AutoCad Laboratory Upgrades, including furniture for lab stations, computer stations, and specialized industry-standard software.

Approval by the subcommittee is the first and most important step in the appropriations process.

The new funds must now be approved by the full Appropriations committee and the full House. The Senate will also take up its own version of the bill.

Hinchey has previously secured \$400,000 for the construction of the new SUNY Orange Newburgh Campus, which is nearing completion. The Newburgh facility will double the current student body capacity to 3,500 students.